

## TV REVIEW

## 'The Great Challenge'

By Jack Iams

The theme of Thursday night's latest of "The Great Challenge" series over Channel 2 was certainly one of the most important, if not the most important, of our time: "U. S. and U. S. S. R.—Co-existence or Collision?" Since it is the avowed purpose of the series to tackle the largest and toughest questions facing us today, this was an altogether fitting subject for discussion:

At the same time, I can't help wondering if perhaps a question like this one is not too large, and too tough, to be dealt with satisfactorily in the course of an hour, much of it given over to irritable exchanges among the participants. To be perfectly honest, I don't think I emerged from the session feeling that I was any better informed, any more encouraged or discouraged, than I had been before. It could, of course, have been my fault.

Thursday night's program, too, was weaker than some of the earlier "Great Challenges" in that none of those taking part was currently in a position where he might actively effect the issues under discussion.

Best-known of the participants was James J. Wadsworth, former Ambassador to the UN, now president of the Peace Research Institute. He knew what he was talking about, all right, and he made excellent sense. Nevertheless, by his own stated preference, he confined himself to generalities.

Also a man of first-hand knowledge was Col. William R. Kintner (retired), who in his time has served with the CIA and the National Security Council. He, too, made good sense, and it is noteworthy that he and Wadsworth appeared more hopeful of finding some solution other than war to our present predicament than the other two panelists.

The latter, who also did most of the wrangling, were Dr. Erich Fromm, founder of the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, and Eugene Lyons, onetime foreign correspondent now associated with the conservative Young Americans for Freedom. Lyons was the gadfly of the program. At one point,

better man than myself" who recently wrote that "the showdown with the Communist world conspiracy is on." It turned out that he was quoting Severskiy's words to the moderator's palpable embarrassment. At another time, he pinned the slogan "Better Red Than Dead" to the idealistic Dr. Fromm, which sent the latter into sputtering indignation.

But it was Wadsworth who gave the program most of its weight, and his closing words were worth pondering: "Appeasement . . . is not the point. The point is to use one's ingenuity. This has been done over the ages in negotiations and can keep on being done. It is simply ridiculous to be so fatalistic as to fall back on saying the only thing we can do is fight."